

## IN THE CLAIMS

1            Claim 1 (Currently Amended) In combination: ~~A bracket for use in coupling~~  
a new building panel; ~~to~~  
a structure, having at least one existing building panel with an outwardly facing surface  
that is shaped to have a profile defined by elongated, alternating peaks and  
5            valleys, and at least one existing fastener; ~~and~~  
the bracket comprising:

forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members having upper and lower end  
portions, opposite end portions and a length extending between said  
10            opposite end portions; said lower end portions of said forward and  
rearward wall members being shaped and sized to marry the profile of the  
alternating peaks and valleys along the outwardly facing surface of the  
existing building panel when ~~said brace~~ the bracket is positioned closely  
adjacent, and ~~generally~~ the length of said bracket is perpendicular to,  
15            lengths of the elongated alternating peaks and valleys of the existing  
building panel; and

a top wall member extending between and operatively coupling the upper end  
portions of said forward and rearward wall members;

20            said forward, rearward and top wall members being coupled to one another so  
that they define a channel that extends at least partially along the length of  
the bracket; said channel being sized and shaped to ~~substantially~~ enclose  
the at least one existing fastener.

1 Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward and rearward wall members are spaced in a ~~substantially~~ parallel relationship with one another.

5 Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward, rearward and top wall members are comprised of an ~~substantially~~ insulative material.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said channel is shaped and sized to ~~substantially and~~ simultaneously enclose a plurality of existing fasteners that are arranged in a ~~generally~~ linear relationship with one another.

10 Claim 5 (Currently Amended) In combination:

a new building panel;

a structure, having at least one existing building panel with an outwardly facing surface

that is shaped to have a profile defined by elongated, alternating peaks and

valleys, and at least one existing fastener; and

15 a bracket comprising:

forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members having upper and lower end

portions, opposite end portions and a length extending between said

opposite end portions; said lower end portions of said forward and

20 rearward wall members being shaped and sized to marry the profile of the

alternating peaks and valleys along the outwardly facing surface of the

existing building panel when the bracket is positioned closely adjacent,

and perpendicular to, the alternating peaks and valleys of the existing

building panel; and

a top wall member extending between and operatively coupling the upper end

portions of said forward and rearward wall members;

said forward, rearward and top wall members being coupled to one another so

that they define a channel that extends at least partially along the length of

the bracket; said channel being ~~The bracket of claim 1 wherein said~~

~~channel is shaped and sized to substantially enclose and engage the at~~

~~least one existing fastener in a manner that substantially prevents said~~

~~bracket from moving in a generally parallel fashion with respect to the at~~

~~least one existing building panel.~~

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall portions are shaped so that a substantial

portion of the lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall portions engage the outwardly facing surface of the at least one existing building panel.

Claim 9 (Original) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward, rearward and top wall members are positioned with respect to one another to provide the bracket with a generally U-shaped cross-section.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method of retrofitting at least one new building panel and at least one new fastener to a structure having at least one existing building panel, with an outwardly facing surface that is shaped to have a profile defined by

1 elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, which is secured to a frame member with at least one existing fastener, comprising the steps of:

5 providing at least one bracket comprising forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members, having upper and lower end portions, coupled to one another by a top wall member; and

10 providing said at least one bracket with a channel, defined by said forward, rearward and top wall members, which extends at least partially along a length of said at least one bracket and is sized and shaped to ~~substantially~~enclose said at least one existing fastener;

15 providing said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall members with a shape that will marry the profile of the alternating peaks and valleys along the outwardly facing surface of the existing building panel when said brace is positioned closely adjacent, and ~~generally~~perpendicular to, the alternating peaks and valleys of the at least one existing building panel;

20 aligning said at least one bracket so that the length of said at least one bracket is positioned perpendicular to lengths of said elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, the profile of said bracket is married to the profile of the at least one existing building panel, and the at least one existing fastener is ~~substantially~~ enclosed within said channel;

25 positioning the at least one new building panel on the top wall member of said at least one bracket;

securing the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the frame member with  
1 the at least one new fastener.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising the  
step of forming said bracket from an ~~substantially~~ insulative material.

5 Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said forward and  
rearward wall members are positioned in a ~~substantially~~ parallel relationship with one  
another.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

10 Claim 14 (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of  
disposing a layer of insulative material between the at least one existing building panel  
and the at least one new building panel.

15 Claim 15 (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 10 wherein~~ A method of  
retrofitting at least one new building panel and at least one new fastener to a structure  
having at least one existing building panel, with an outwardly facing surface that is  
shaped to have a profile defined by elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, which is  
secured to a frame member with a plurality of existing fasteners, which are linearly  
arranged with respect to one another, the method comprising the steps of:

20 providing at least one bracket comprising forward and rearward spaced-apart wall  
members, having upper and lower end portions, coupled to one another by a top  
wall member; and

25 providing said at least one bracket with a channel, defined by said forward, rearward  
and top wall members, which extends at least partially along a length of said at

1        least one bracket and is sized and shaped to enclose said plurality of existing fasteners;

5        providing said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall members with a shape that will marry the profile of the alternating peaks and valleys along the outwardly facing surface of the existing building panel when said brace is positioned closely adjacent, and generally perpendicular to, the alternating peaks and valleys of the at least one existing building panel;

10       aligning said at least one bracket so that the profile of said bracket is married to the profile of the at least one existing building panel and the plurality of existing fasteners are enclosed within said channel and engage said bracket in a manner that prevents movement of said bracket along the lengths of the elongated, alternating peaks and valleys of the at least one existing building panel;

15       positioning the at least one new building panel on the top wall member of said at least one bracket;

securing the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the frame member with the at least one new fastener.

20       Claim 16 (Original) ~~The method of claim 10 wherein the~~ A method of retrofitting at least one new building panel and at least one new fastener to a structure having at least one existing building panel, with an outwardly facing surface that is shaped to have a profile defined by elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, which is secured to a frame member with at least one existing fastener, comprising the steps of:

1 providing at least one bracket comprising forward and rearward spaced-apart wall  
members, having upper and lower end portions, coupled to one another by a top  
wall member; and

5 providing said at least one bracket with a channel, defined by said forward, rearward  
and top wall members, which extends at least partially along a length of said at  
least one bracket and is sized and shaped to enclose said at least one existing  
fastener;

10 providing said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall members with a  
shape that will marry the profile of the alternating peaks and valleys along the  
outwardly facing surface of the existing building panel when said brace is  
positioned closely adjacent, and perpendicular to, the alternating peaks and  
valleys of the at least one existing building panel;

15 aligning said at least one bracket so that the profile of said bracket is married to the  
profile of the at least one existing building panel and the at least one existing  
fastener is enclosed within said channel;

positioning the at least one new building panel on the top wall member of said at least  
one bracket;

20 securing the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the frame member with  
the at least one new fastener; said bracket is-being coupled to the at least one  
existing building panel using only the at least one new fastener used to secure  
the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the said frame member.

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Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said channel is sized and shaped to ~~substantially~~ enclose the at least one existing fastener such that said bracket is ~~substantially~~ prevented from parallel movement with respect to the at least one existing building panel.

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Claim 18 (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said bracket is provided with a generally U-shaped cross-section.

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